



The Bridge

Summer 2020

Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Friendship & Understanding since 1993

Roseburg, Oregon & Kuki City, Japan



2019 RSC Adult
Delegation with Kuki
friends & view of Mt. Fuji

- Calendar of Events -

**Please check email for any schedule updates.*

August 17, 5:30 pm: RSC Board Meeting outdoors at BLM.

September 14, 5:30 pm: RSC Board Meeting outdoors at BLM.

September 25, 9:00 – 12:00 pm: Friendship Garden Workday. (See article, pg 3.)

October 12, 5:30 pm: RSC Board Meeting, Meeting location TBA.

October 21, at 6:30 pm: RSC Book Club. For Location, call Janet, 541-430-2885 (See article, pg 5.)

November 1, 4:00 pm TENTATIVE Annual Meeting: Please check Email for updates & for location.

The President's Corner

Dear Members and Friends,

BREAKING NEWS! This is Janet Johnston, your new President sending this message. Thomas McGregor resigned his positions of RSC President and Board Member on July 23rd, due to the extreme demands on his time and energy to handle the Covid-19 issues and create proposals for the future to operate Phoenix School and manage his students, in his position as Director of Phoenix School. We were greatly disappointed to lose him and the 'breath of fresh air' that he brought with him to our Board, as well as his youth and knowledge of Japanese customs, etc. from having lived in Japan. Thomas promised that he is still interested in our Program and will look forward to being more active again in the future when he can.

The Roseburg Sister Cities Board of Directors met on July 30th and elected Janet Johnston as President to fill Thomas's 2020 Term as President; Steve Erickson to fill Janet's remaining 2020 term as Vice President; and selected Charlotte Carter to fill Thomas's position as a Board Member for the remainder of his term ending December 2020.

Who would have thought back in March when we started isolating and trying to reduce the impact of Coronavirus that we would still be dealing with it this summer and in some areas seeing an Increase rather than decrease in positive cases! Instead of weeks, the pandemic has escalated to months and perhaps years before it is under control, as the Medical Community tries to figure out ways to combat the virus and find an effective vaccine to protect us.

Continued on page 2...



Roseburg Sister Cities

Board of Directors:

President: Janet Johnston
Vice President: Steve Erickson
Secretary: Debbie Fields
Treasurer: Kevin Carson

Board Members:

Charlotte Carter
Joanie Chambers
Karsha Owen
Jo Ann Pico
Nancy Pittman
Akiyo Riggs
Maureen Williams

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www.roseburgsistercities.org

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Newsletter Editor:

Katherine Elisar, 541.680.3614



Message continued from the Roseburg Sister Cities President...

Obviously, the Virus has been a challenge for all of us and disappointing too, that there have been many cancellations of events and activities that we all enjoy in the summer months! One of the earliest cancellations was our June Visitation from our friends in Kuki City, Japan. We had originally planned to reschedule their visit for June 2021, but now are thinking even that may be too soon, so are now looking at postponing their next visit to June 2022. This will also impact our Delegations going to Japan, as with the postponements of our Visitors, our next Delegation TO Japan will probably not be until 2023! Of course, we will continue to monitor the situation closely and make changes, should the virus come under control sooner.

The Middle School Exchange has also been temporarily halted, as our Students were scheduled to visit Japan in July 2020. We will be working with Paul Whitworth, Exchange Director, and the Kuki City organizers to determine when the next Middle School Student Delegation WILL be able to travel to Japan and will be keeping those involved informed as this evolves.

One activity we ARE looking forward to is the Friendship Garden work party, scheduled for September (details in separate article) and feel this outdoors activity can be done safely with precautions. We hope you will take advantage to help us and see other RSC members for a morning of good work!

We are also working on how we might structure our Annual Meeting in November. Please watch for more information in the months to come on that.

Looking forward to serving you,

Janet Johnston, President
Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Always happy to hear from you with ideas or suggestions for RSC –

*Janetsmail77@gmail.com,
541-430-2885*



Kuki city Mayor Shuichi Umeda welcoming the 2019 Roseburg delegation with Janet Johnston, 2019 RSC Delegation Leader.





Hiroshima Peace Tree

The Hiroshima Peace Tree was planted at UCC just before the Covid crisis brought everything to a halt.

This ginkgo seedling comes from the trees that survived the bombing 75 years ago in Hiroshima, Japan. We were working together with UCC to plan a ceremony for the public, but that has been postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic. The tree is now growing and you can stop by and see it between the Library and Tap^hoyt^ha' Hall. A plaque similar to below will be placed with the tree.

- Submitted by Kevin Carson



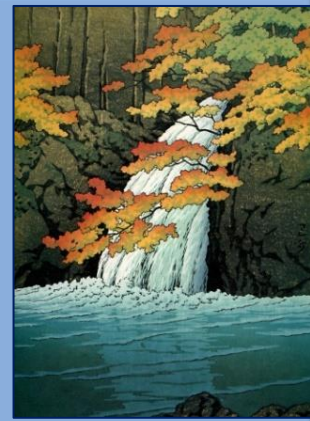
Thank you to Jess Miller and Jim Paris of UCC.



L to R: Debbie Fields, Joanie Chambers, Jim Paris, Steve Erickson, Yuki Taylor, & Akiyo Riggs.

Join us for the...

RSC FRIENDSHIP GARDEN WORK DAY!



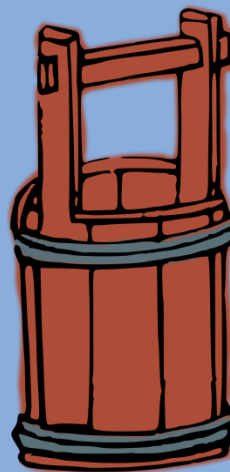
Friday, September 25th

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

South side of
Roseburg Public Library

For the next Work Party of the RSC Friendship Garden behind the Roseburg City Library, participants should bring their own masks and gloves, and favorite gardening tools, although tools and gloves will also be made available for those who do not bring their own. We will be doing general garden maintenance such as weeding and application of bark mulch.

If interested, please contact me as soon as possible with your RSVP, so we can bring appropriate tools and materials for the number of people working.



We will be working under the direction of Roseburg horticulturist, Tracy Pope, who continues to bring so much good energy to the restoration of the RSC Friendship Garden.

If interested, & to be sure of any rescheduling, please contact
Steve Erickson,
scerickson48@gmail.com

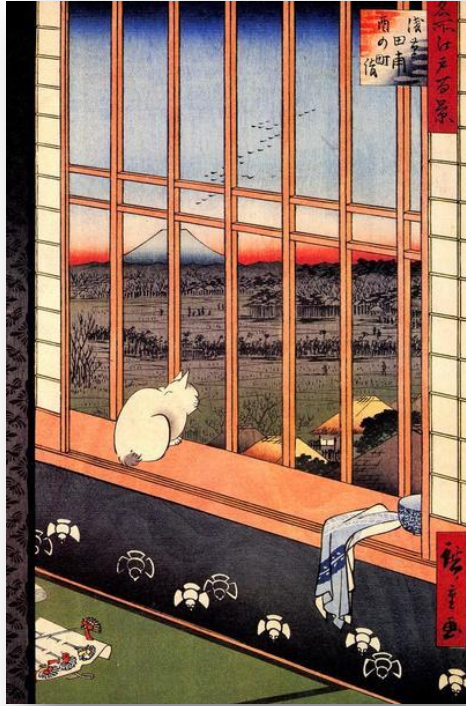
Cats in Japanese Art & Culture

Cats and their personalities are often the stuff of legend and their relationship with humans can be traced back at least 10,000 years. They embody mysticism and have been culturally significant for many nations. There is something magical about cats. Perhaps that's why they are the most popular pet on the planet and feature prominently in the folklore, myths and artwork of so many cultures throughout time. Believed by many to have special powers, they are mysterious creatures and hold a special place in our hearts.

The ancient folklore of Japan features a huge number of

Mythological animals – some you may already know. Consider the *Tanuki* (mischievous and jolly raccoon/dog – a master of disguise and shapeshifting), the *Kitsune* (a shapeshifting trickster-fox renowned for his mischievousness) and the *Kappa* (an imaginary water monster). The cat also takes its honored place among this pantheon.

In Japan, cats are revered for giving luck and other positive results represented by the popular Japanese cat figurine *maneki-neko* (beckoning cat) which is typically believed to bring such blessings. Many of our



Sister City members are quite familiar with these maneki-neko and have frequently seen them at many shops, restaurants, and other businesses. There are also a number of shrines and temples dedicated to cats throughout the country.

For many centuries, Japanese woodblock print artists have featured works specializing in a wide variety of themes including: kabuki actors, sumo wrestlers, female beauties, travel scenes, landscapes, flora and fauna, scenes from history, folk tales, and cats! One artist in particular has managed to create famous

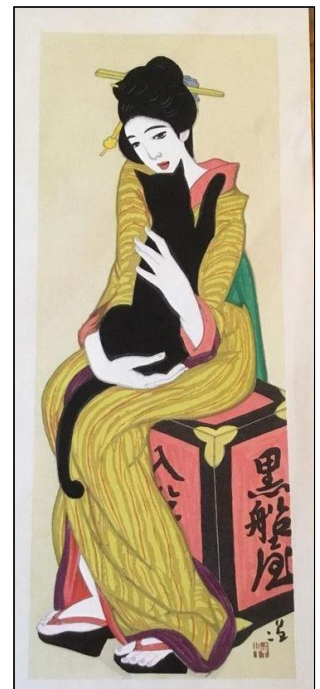
prints in almost all of those categories – his name is Utagawa Hiroshige (1797 – 1858).

One print by Hiroshige is named “Asakusa Ricefields and Torinaomachi Festival” which shows a cat in a window overlooking the Tokyo scene below.

Another print – from a slightly later era – is by woodblock artist Yumeji Takehisa (1884 – 1934).

The print is named “Kurofune-ya” (which means Black Ship Inn) and it shows a Japanese lady hugging a black cat – it is probably his most famous work.

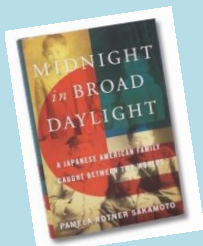
Article submitted by David Johnston, former RSC President & Delegation Leader



RSC Book Club

The Sister Cities Japan Book Club met in July to discuss “36 Views of Mt Fuji”, by Cathy Davidson. As we all had originally read it in anticipation of meeting in April our conversation consisted of several rounds of “Do you remember ...?”, and “Oh no, I had forgotten that bit”. But we all liked the book, and were pleased to finally be together.

We have settled on “Midnight in Broad Daylight”, by Pamela R. Sakamoto, as our next book. This a true story of a Japanese American family that found itself on opposite sides during World War II.



Given the uncertainties right now, we have tentatively scheduled our next meeting for October 21st at 6:30 pm, but do not yet have a location. Anyone interested in joining us is most welcome, and should plan on contacting us early in October to verify the meeting time and place.

- Submitted by Una Honsheid

Resources for Students of all Ages

Check out these YouTube videos:

- ❖ **30 things in Japan that demonstrate their consideration for others** and customs we could learn from,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMDlauhNrAM>
- ❖ **Introduction to Japanese Phrases, Lesson 1:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGrBHiuPITO>
- ❖ **Going to a Destination, Japanese Lesson 4:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k74yjmFb_A

recipe: Japanese Fruit Sandwich (Fruit Sando) フルーツサンド

Recipe by Namiko Chen of Just One Cookbook.



Confusing at first, but this sandwich is filled with fresh fruits & whipped cream between 2 slices of Japanese milk bread known as *shokupan*. Symmetrically shaped strawberries, orange, kiwi, mango, & blueberries make the centerpiece of the sandwich. In between the bread & fruits is the smooth & buttery whipped cream:

1. Spread whipped cream on both sides of the sandwich bread. At this stage, the crust helps to keep it in shape.
2. Align the fruits on one side of the sandwich bread. If you plan to cut the sandwich diagonally, think carefully about how you want to show your cross section. Fill in any gap with whipped cream between fruits. Put the second slice of sandwich bread over the fruits, facing the whipped cream side down.
3. Wrap the sandwich tightly with plastic wrap. Remember where the diagonal cut will be made!
4. Mark the cutting line on the plastic wrap with a pen.
5. Put the sandwiches between plates & refrigerate for at least one hour (up to overnight). In Japan, putting weight on the sandwich is a pretty standard method prior to cutting in half.
6. Open the plastic wrap & cut the sandwich in half diagonally with a clean knife. (Clean the knife with a hot wet towel before each cut.) Gently press down the sandwich and cut off the 4 edges.
7. Reveal the cross section & serve immediately!

www.gwennypenny.com

Part 2: Interest in Anime Leads to Visit



Prior to leaving on the trip with the delegation, I decided I would extend my stay in Japan by a week. There was so much that I wanted to be able to see and do in Japan that I didn't have time for with the delegation. After my wonderful homestay with the Takamatsu family, I was especially interested in visiting the small town of Toyosato.

My sister, Alicia, flew over to meet me after the delegation had returned home. We had to take multiple trains, including the Shinkansen (bullet train), to get to a hotel right outside the town. After the first night I got to visit the school in Toyosato which was the setting for my favorite anime, K-On. The show is about a music club formed by students at the school. The show became very famous in Japan and abroad so a section of the school was set aside as a tribute to the show. It was full of artwork, merchandise and items from the show. The instruments that were used as reference for the show's animation were on display too. There was also a K-On themed cafe that served items that were shown in the anime and that we sat down to order from their menu and enjoyed.



Alicia and I stayed just outside of Toyosato for two nights before going back to Kuki. My host family, Takashi and Chie Takamatsu and their son, Ibuki, were very generous, and excited, to have me stay with them again even after the delegation had left. They were happy to have the opportunity to meet my sister and I was happy to introduce them to Alicia who was excited to have time with them and the chance to experience day to day life in Japan.

After reluctantly saying our goodbyes, we spent the rest of the trip staying at an Airbnb in the Akihabara district of Tokyo. Akihabara is known for stores dedicated to selling merchandise from various anime. I took the time to explore many of these stores and found a lot of souvenirs to bring home!

- Submitted by Skyler Abel,
2019 RSC Delegate



To learn more about anime, watch the 1st episode of K-on, 22 minutes with English subtitles, where you can see the school that Skyler & his sister, Alicia, toured: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgKWYVetYOE>

Edo Wonderland

On my trip to Japan in July of 2016, I was taken back in time to 17th century Edo (now Tokyo). The wonderful Arai family took us to this theme park in the north near Nikko. Hiroyuki insisted that we all dress in costume for the day. It is not necessary, but it certainly enhances the experience. As we entered the park and headed for the clothing department, we had no idea what was in store for me. Everyone's outfit for the day was predetermined by the Arai's (Hiroyuki and Satomi with their daughters Yuri, Minori, and Hikari). I was directed off to a room and told to strip down to just my underwear....we are not in the USA anymore. Next, an older woman came in a bound me tight in layer after layer of cloth. It was all tight and made it next to impossible to bend at the waist. Last was the socks with toes and the wooden sandals. How were these going to work walking around all day? And, before I headed out, I was given my sword to complete the ensemble. Eventually, we all met up in the lobby, all looking amazing and ready to roam Edo.

We headed out onto the first street of Edo and instantly a commotion started. The citizens all came out saying things and getting down on their knees and bowing. What is going on? I can hear Hiroyuki giggling behind me. I turn to him and he tells me that I am the Lord of Edo so everyone must greet me and bow. He quickly teaches me a phrase that I need to say in order for citizens to rise back to their feet. I fumbled through it the first time, but then I quickly started to rehearse as I would need to use that phrase all day long. Being the focus of attention for hours and hours was a unique feeling. In addition to the citizens (cast members) bowing to me, I also received a lot of attention from the families that were also there for the day. I was constantly asked for photos with people. This included many babies or infants as well as girls dressed in princess outfits. Many of these people also practiced their English with me. It was really nice. The other "job" of mine for the day was to take part in some of the shows that occurred around Edo. At one point I was dressed up as an old woman (wig and cane) and was in a skit on the main stage. I also did a form of game show. There was also the time my group was arrested by the police, roped up, and taken to jail.

I was still able to venture around Edo and enjoy shows, visit the various structures to learn about the history, and best of all, try many varieties of food. Overall, it was an amazing day (and the onsen came that evening) that will be something I will always remember.

The Arai family was extremely generous taking us to Edo. They are also so much fun and willing to jump into any situation which just added to the experience. Oh, and my feet did survive the wooden sandals!

- Submitted by Paul Whitworth,
Director Roseburg Kuki Student Exchange
rsbgkuki@gmail.com, 541.672.6303



L to R: Allison & Paul
Whitworth alongside the
Arai Family in July 2016
at the Edo Theme Park



Takumi Kawaoka's First Birthday Celebration!!

Submitted by Janet Johnston

Takumi turned "One Year Old" on June 30, 2020 and his family celebrated with a Japanese First Birthday Tradition named – "Issho Mochi". Takumi is the first Grandchild of my special long time friends, Katsumi & Kazui Shibuya (whom many of our RSC members have met on Exchanges to Japan and visits to Roseburg) and first child of their daughter, Midori, and her husband, Norihiko Kawaoka. I had never heard of this Japanese "First Birthday" tradition before and thought our members might also be interested in hearing about it so I did some research. Kazui was kind enough to share the photos included herein of Takumi's First Birthday celebration with their hopes that he will want for no food and live to a great age!

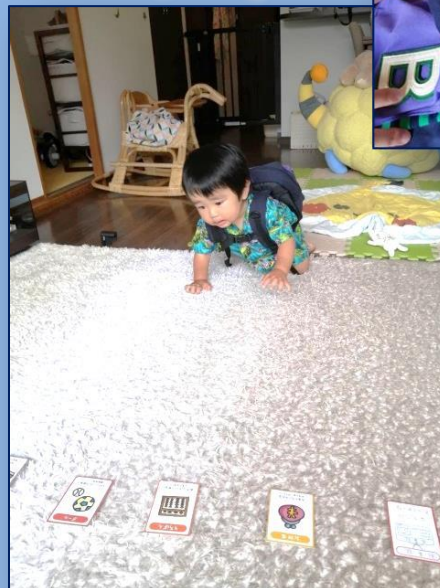
"ISSHO MOCHI" means 'two kilos of rice' (approximately 4 lbs.) written with one set of characters, but if written with different characters (making the same sound) it means "One's Whole Life" – a prayer for 'good health and prosperity' for the child's ENTIRE LIFE!

4 month old Takumi, Janet, Midori, & Kazui in October of 2019 upon the Delegation arriving in Kuki city.



To learn about how other Kuki families you know celebrate their Children's First Birthdays, I suggest you contact them and ask about it. Due to the current situation with Covid-19 restricting travel, this would be a good topic to connect with former Host Families and/or Japanese visitors hosted in Roseburg and learn more about this interesting Japanese tradition!

For more information – Google "Japanese First Birthday traditions"; TsukuBlog; Taiken Japan; "How to Celebrate 1st Birthday in Japan."



The Birthday celebration includes two rituals:

Issho Mochi – in which two round shaped rice cakes are placed in a traditional Japanese carrying cloth (furushiki) or a special backpack and placed on the child's back to carry. The ritual is prepared by the parents of the Baby with best wishes and hopes for their child and by carrying it out, the child is thought to be blessed not only with food and goods, but also the Japanese concept of "Enman" – a very positive word that encompasses the concepts of perfection, harmony, peace, smoothness, completeness, satisfaction and integrity. The family watches to see the Child's reactions – walking or crawling with it (future challenges), crying or falling down due to heavy load (removes impurities) – any reaction is considered Good Luck and their prayer for their child's happy future!

Erabitori – means to "choose and take an item" – Objects or picture cards are placed out in front of the child and the first one they crawl to and touch and/or pick up shows their 'calling' (future tendency, talent, or occupation). There are no strict regulations of the objects chosen and they may include – money/wallet (become rich); Scissors (dexterity); abacus/calculator (business talent); brush/pen (painter or writer); Spoon/Chopsticks (become a cook, without hunger); Ruler (become methodical); Balloon (work on a global scale); Musical Instrument; Soccer Ball; smart phone (electronics).

Prior to World War II, ALL Japanese birthdays were celebrated at New Year's with rice cakes (mochi) and other special New Year's dishes. Rather than birthdays being celebrated on the actual date of birth during the year, On New Year's Eve "Omisoka" All Japanese used to consider themselves as having all aged one year. In other words, New Year's "O-Shogatsu" was everyone's birthday! Since babies were traditionally considered to be one year old at the time of birth, this could result in a baby born just days or weeks before New Years, being considered two years old on New Year's Day! This way of determining a person's age is called "Kazoe-Dashi" and I understand is still used when holding certain traditional ceremonies (such as purification for unlucky ages "Yaku Barai", etc.



*Happy Birthday,
Takumi!*

*Thank you for sharing
your Birthday with all
of us in Oregon!*





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Roseburg Sister Cities'
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Cascade Self Storage
For a RSC Storage Unit for
another year!



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Please Remember to Renew RSC Membership for 2021!

- New Membership
- Renew Membership (Tax Deductible 501-C3)
- Family \$30
- Single \$20
- Student: \$5 (with School ID)

Make checks payable to: Roseburg Sister Cities, Inc.

Mail to: P.O. Box 1643, Roseburg, OR 97470

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check below your areas of special interest:

- **Friendship Garden** (behind Douglas Co. Library)
 Committee, Helper
- **2022 June Delegation Hosting:** Help w/visitor events, dinners, sightseeing, etc. (usually 4-7 days in June)
 Serve as Host Family, Helper
- **Travel as a 2023 RSC Delegate to Japan**
(usually 9-12 days)
- **Special Committees:**
 - Future Board Member
 - Membership
 - Speaker Bureau member
 - Displays-help do
 - Plan activities
 - Japanese Language Interpreter
 - Japanese Film Festival
 - Annual Dinner helper
 - Newsletter Helper
 - Historian/Scrapbook



**Memories of the RSC Adult
Delegation Visit in October 2019
to Choriyuji Kindergarten:
L: Joanie Chambers, Bev Cole;
R: Sheila Cox & Charlotte Carter**

